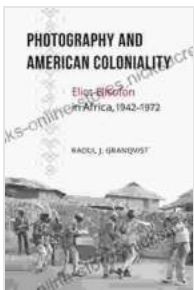


Eliot Elisofon in Africa: Exploring African Humanities and the Arts, 1942-1972

Eliot Elisofon (1911-1973) was an American photographer best known for his work documenting African cultures during the mid-20th century. His extensive photographic archive, spanning three decades, provides a valuable record of the rich and diverse traditions of African humanities and the arts.



Photography and American Coloniality: Eliot Elisofon in Africa, 1942–1972 (African Humanities and the Arts)

by Ilan Leas

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1636 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 338 pages



Elisofon's first trip to Africa was in 1942, when he was commissioned by the National Geographic Society to document the war effort in North Africa. During this trip, he was struck by the beauty and vibrancy of the African people and their cultures. He returned to Africa many times over the next 30 years, capturing the essence of African life in his photographs.

Elisofon's photographs are known for their technical excellence, as well as their sensitivity to the people and cultures he documented. He was able to capture the beauty and dignity of African people, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. His photographs have been published in numerous books and magazines, and have helped to shape the world's understanding of Africa.

African Humanities and the Arts

Eliot Elisofon's photographs provide a valuable record of African humanities and the arts. He documented a wide range of subjects, including:

- Traditional African religions and spiritual practices
- Music and dance
- Oral traditions and storytelling
- Art and architecture
- Education and literacy

Elisofon's photographs capture the essence of African creativity and expression. They provide a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Africa, and help to dispel the stereotypes that have often been associated with the continent.

The African Diaspora

In addition to his work in Africa, Elisofon also photographed the African diaspora in the Americas and Europe. He documented the lives of African Americans in the United States, and he also photographed African communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. His photographs of the

African diaspora provide a valuable record of the experiences and contributions of Africans and their descendants around the world.

Legacy

Eliot Elisofon's legacy is complex and multifaceted. He was a pioneer in the field of documentary photography, and his work has helped to shape the way we see Africa and its people. However, he has also been criticized for his romanticized portrayal of African cultures. Some critics argue that his photographs reinforce stereotypes about Africa, and that they fail to capture the full complexity of African life.

Despite these criticisms, Elisofon's work remains an important record of African humanities and the arts. His photographs provide a valuable glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Africa, and they continue to inspire and educate people around the world.

Further Reading

- [Eliot Elisofon at National Geographic](#)
- [Eliot Elisofon: An American photographer in Africa, 1942-1972 at The Washington Post](#)
- [Eliot Elisofon: An American Photographer In Africa, 1942-1972 at NPR](#)





Dancers of the Karamojong tribe in Uganda, photographed by Eliot Elisofon in 1955.



705 SENEGAL - Griot ou

Les griots sont pour la plupart des musiciens qui accompagnent les chefs en chantant leurs louanges

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Image ID: G3C47T
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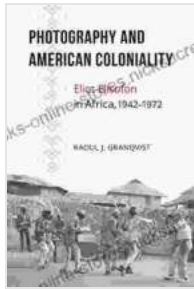


Boys playing a Mandinka xylophone in Banjul, Gambia, photographed by Eliot Elisofon in 1942.

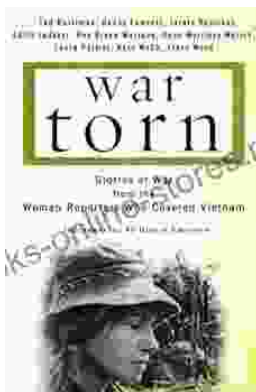
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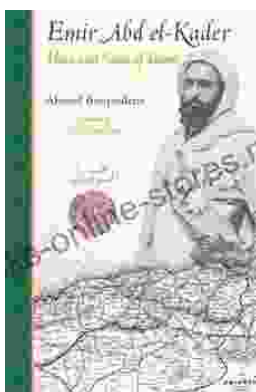


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